

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2, 7-9 and 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lorimer, EP 0724371 A1. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to provide that the cell search method includes “carrying out ... cell search for a high-priority mobile telephone system at regular intervals when the mobile radio terminal is in a standby state in a low-priority mobile telephone system.”

Independent claim 9 has been amended to include “means ... for carrying out cell search for a high-priority mobile telephone system: (1) at regular intervals when the mobile radio terminal is in a standby state in a low-priority mobile telephone system and (2) upon detecting that the mobile radio terminal carries out a transmission-related operation in case where location registration to a low-priority mobile telephone system has been made.”

Lorimer does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of searches at regular intervals for a high-priority mobile telephone system, when the mobile radio terminal is in a standby state in a low-priority mobile telephone system. What is disclosed is the attempt by a handset to leave a currently attached network which is of lower priority for a higher priority network if the new network remains available for a specified period, (page 3, lines 43-45). There is no indication or suggestion of searches at regular intervals for a high-priority network.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lorimer in view Ogawa, U.S. Patent No. 5,991,644. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Since claim 3 is directly dependent upon independent claim 1, it is allowable over Lorimer for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claim 1 over Lorimer. In regard to Ogawa, that patent merely discloses a folding portable communications device, (abstract), and does not disclose regular interval cell searches for a high-priority mobile telephone system when a mobile radio terminal is in a standby state in a low-priority mobile telephone system, as claimed in independent claim 1, from which claim 3 depends.

Claims 4 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lorimer in view of Lim et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2003/0117996 A1. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Since claims 4 and 10 are directly dependent upon one of independent claims 1 and 9, they are allowable over Lorimer for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claims 1 and 9 over Lorimer. Lim et al. discloses that cell searches are performed based upon strengths of signals from neighboring cells, as compared to certain thresholds, (abstract). There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of conducting cell searches for a high-priority mobile telephone system at regular intervals, when a mobile radio terminal is in a standby state in a low-priority mobile telephone system.

Claims 5 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lorimer in view of Shoji et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2002/0041580 A1. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 11 are directly dependent upon one of independent claims 1 and 9, and therefore, are allowable over Lorimer for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claims 1 and 9 over Lorimer. Shoji et al. is directed towards providing "a cell search determination circuit capable of reducing misdetections in the identification of a scramble code number and saving search time," paragraph [0021]. There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of conducting cell searches for a high priority mobile telephone system at regular intervals, when a mobile radio terminal is in a standby state in a low-priority mobile telephone system.

Claim 6 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since independent claim 1, from which claim 6 depends, is now allowable, claim 6 should also be allowable. Claim 14 has been allowed.

In view of the foregoing remarks, allowance of claims 1-13 is respectfully requested.

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Max Moskowitz

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature
August 1, 2005

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

Max Moskowitz

Registration No.: 30,576

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP

1180 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-8403

Telephone: (212) 382-0700